



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
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March 11, 2025

The Honorable Andy Josephson
House Finance Co-Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Neal Foster
House Finance Co-Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Calvin Schrage
House Finance Co-Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 410
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representatives Josephson, Foster, and Schrage:

The Department of Health received the following questions during the presentation to the House Finance Committee on March 3, 2025, about the Medicaid Enrollment and Spending in Alaska (MESA) report:

What cost containment methods have been implemented?

The attached Annual Medicaid Reform Report FY2024 includes information about Medicaid cost containment. Activities include federal tribal reimbursement, pharmacy preferred drug lists and prospective drug utilization reviews, and utilization management services.

What are the fraud, waste, and abuse efforts of the department?

The attached Joint Legislative Fraud, Waste, and Abuse report includes information about activities conducted by the Department of Law and Department of Health to prevent Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse.

Is there a way to break down utilization by population type?

On the Legislative Finance website, the Medicaid Budget FAQs provide statistics about the Medicaid program. <https://www.legfin.akleg.gov/MedicaidFAQ/FAQs.php>

The third question provides information about utilization by gender, race, age, benefit group, and other categories. <https://www.legfin.akleg.gov/MedicaidFAQ/question3.pdf>.

Can we see information about tobacco usage and its impact as a chronic disease?

Of the ten percent of Medicaid recipients with the highest costs, more than 20 percent of these individuals use tobacco, compared to about seven percent of other recipients (see slide 26). https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=34&docid=2282

If you have additional questions, please contact me at (907) 465-1630.

Sincerely,



Pam Halloran
Assistant Commissioner

Enclosure: Annual Medicaid Reform Report FY2024
Joint Legislative Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

cc: Valerie Rose, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance
Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office
Tim Hess, Office of Management and Budget
Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner
Robert Lawrence, Chief Medical Officer
Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner
Tracy Dompeling, Director of Division of Behavioral Health
Lynne Keilman-Cruz, Acting Director of Division of Health Care Services
Tony Newman, Director of Division of Senior and Disabilities Services
Raquel Solomon-Gross, Deputy Director of Finance and Management Services
Dustin Scown, Budget Manager
Courtney Enright, Legislative Liaison